



A N N U A L R E P O R T.

- of the -

MEDICAL

OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

for the

RURAL DISTRICT OF HOLYWELL.

FOR THE YEAR

1938

H O L Y W E L L R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

TO:-

The Chairman and Members of the
HOLYWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Hoggarth and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year
ending December 31st, 1938.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

This is chiefly an agricultural area besides which there are Quarrying, Lead Mining, Iron, Coal and other activities in connection with the rich mineral deposits. Silk Works and Iron Works in the adjoining area give occupation to large numbers of the inhabitants of this area. Unemployment has steadily diminished except for the depression in a Lead Mine, which employed several hundreds.

Area in Acres	58,550.
Population.	20,450.
No. of inhabited houses.	6,722.
Rateable Value.	£74,930.
Sum represented by ld rate.	£285. 7. 4.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Live Births.</u>	319.	168.	151.	Birth rate per 1000
Legitimate.		166.	146.	of the population
Illegitimate.		2.	5.	- 15.5.
<u>Still Births.</u>	18.	6.	12.	Rate per 1000 (live
Legitimate.		6.	11.	and still births -
Illegitimate.			1.	16.4.
<u>Deaths.</u>	302.	143.	159.	Death rate per 1000
				- 14.7.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total (Live and still)</u> <u>Births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.	2.	5.93.
Other Puerperal causes.	1.	2.96.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1000 live births...	43.0.
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births...	45.0.
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births...	NIL.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)...	2.34.
Deaths from Measles (All ages)...	0.04.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages)...	NIL.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)...	NIL.

The birth rate for the preceding year (1937) was 17.0 and the death rate 14.1. For England and Wales the birth rate for 1938 was 15.4 and the death rate 11.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
All causes... ..	143.	159.
Measles	1	-
Diphtheria... ..	-	2.
Influenza	3.	1.
Encaphalitis Lethargica.. ..	-	1.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	1.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory Sustum... ..	10.	3.
Other Tubercular Diseases	2.	4.
Syphilis	2.	-
Cancer	21.	27.
Diabetes	1.	2.
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	3.	17.
Heart Diseases... ..	30.	44.
Other Circulatory Diseases... ..	14.	11.
Bronchitis... ..	4.	3.
Pneumonia (All forms)	9.	4.
Other Respiratory diseases... ..	3.	1.
Peptic Ulcer.	4.	-
Diarrhoea (Under two years).. ..	2.	-
Liver diseases... ..	-	2.
Other digestive diseases.	2.	2.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.. ..	2.	4.
Puerperal Sepsis.	-	2.
Other Puerperal Diseases.	-	1.
Congenital debility and Premature Birth.. ..	3.	1.
Senility	5.	9.
Suicide	3.	2.
Other violence... ..	4.	5.
Other defined diseases... ..	15.	9.
Diseases ill defined or not known	-	1.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).

I. PHILLIPINE NELIS L. R. C. P. & S. I., D. P. H.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors (Whole Time).

R. D. JONES, C. R. S. I.

Member of the Institute of Municipal & County Engineers.

A. O. GRIFFITHS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Certified Inspector (Meat and Foods).

D. O. M. JONES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

----- oOo -----

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

When required this is carried out by arrangement with The Chester Assay Office and the Pathological Department of the Chester Royal Infirmary.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no ambulance in the area.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Voluntary organizations provide the existing facilities.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

This is administered by the Flintshire County Council.

(e) HOSPITALS.

There is no hospital in the area.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

A very large part of this area is now supplied by the Birkenhead Water Company, which is yearly extended, the Council have therefore concentrated more attention to the many wells and small sources of water.

Water Supplies.

The following companies supply water within the District:-

BRYMBO WATER CO.
HAWARDEN & DISTRICT WATER CO.
MOLD GAS AND WATER CO.
BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION (To the Council in bulk).

In consequence of building developments a number of extensions were carried out during the year.

A scheme of water supply for the village of Nannerch consisting of 1629 lineal yards of 3 in. diameter pipes and 1024 lineal yards of 1½ in. diameter pipes has been carried out during the year.

Schemes have also been approved for the relaying of the mains at Mostyn and at Penyffordd, Ffynnongroew.

All the principal supplies have been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

As will be observed in other paragraphs a number of samples were taken for bacteriological analysis.

Analysis of Water.

(a) Bacteriological examination	14.
(b) Chemical examination.	<u>2.</u>

TOTAL... .. 16.

Results of analysis:-

Bacteriological Examination:- Satisfactory - 7. Unsatisfactory - 7
Chemical examination:- Satisfactory - 2. Unsatisfactory - 0.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

All sewers and outfall works have been well maintained. Extensions have been carried out to the sewers and outfall works at Newmarket Village.

Part of Upper Gronant has also been sewered.

Schemes are also prepared and adopted by the Council for the sewerage of Leeswood and Gwernaffield.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28847891>

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging of the whole area is done by the Council, the District being divided up into 15 areas for the purpose.

The work is carried out by means of contracts.

With the exception of Districts Nos. 10 and 11 the work has been carried out satisfactorily. A large number of complaints were received from the areas 10 and 11 on account of the irregular manner in which the Contractor dealt with both bins and pails. Considerable inconvenience was experienced by many ratepayers of these areas.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In non sewerred areas the pail system is adopted. In sewerred areas several closets have been converted to the water carriage system.

All new property erected is provided with closets of the water carriage type.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been made with respect to the pollution of Rivers and Streams. The River Dee Catchment Board have made great progress in cleaning the River Dee by Cooperation in the Council's area. Small water courses have been cleansed and water logged areas improved. The difficulty however exists, of guarding against deposits and refuse dumping, as this cannot be supervised in such a scattered area. Camps cause consistent anxiety in this respect, and the new Regulations are welcome.

SHOPS INSPECTION.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to this District are enforced. Notices have been served upon occupiers to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation, which were complied with. Where washing facilities were found to be inadequate, notices were served and complied with.

CAMPING SITES.

The known number of sites in the area used for camping is from 35 to 40. The majority of these are for a period of less than 42 consecutive days and less than 60 days in the year. The sites are, on the whole, well maintained. In one case only was there cause to complain of the dampness of the site and the insanitary conditions prevalent in the camp. This site was not licensed. The nuisance was abated by the owner on receipt of a letter from the Sanitary Inspector, and no further camping took place during the year.

The number of camping sites in respect of which licences were issued was 17. These were well maintained.

There are several sites in the area on which camping takes place, and which are under the control of various organizations. These are, as one expects, kept in a very satisfactory condition.

The maximum number of campers resident in the area at the peak period is from 3,000 to 4,000 persons, and in one area it is estimated that the number of persons on the site during the August Bank Holidays is from 1,500 to 2,000 persons.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints relating to smoke nuisances were received during the year. There are many factories in this area and the absence of complaints in this direction points to a fairly high standard of efficiency on the part of the persons operating the furnaces and boilers.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS.

There is only one Swimming Pool within the District. This is privately owned and open only during the Summer months.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No complaints of this nature were received during the year.

SCHOOLS.

All schools are periodically visited and inspected, water supply and sanitary arrangements being supervised.

Generally conditions were found to be satisfactory, where otherwise the matters calling for attention were reported to the proper quarters and remedied.

SECTION D.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 245. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose. | 245. |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. | 245. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose | 245. |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 142. |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	86.
--	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. | NIL. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | NIL. |
| (a) By Owners. | |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners. | |

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 14.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) by owners. 10.
 - (b) by local Authority if default of owners.
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. NIL.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit. NIL.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV. OVERCROWDING:-

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 193. (re-surveyed March, 1939)
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. 193.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. 1158.
- (b) Number of new cases reported during the year. NONE.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 134
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 691
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are 25 Factories and 64 Workshops in the District. Periodical inspections are made and all have been found to comply with requirements.

1841

1842

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The majority of cowsheds and dairies in the districts were inspected during the year.

Milk production has shown considerable improvement recently, the majority of producers making efforts to give the consumers clean milk. Where any signs of laxity on the part of the dairyman or cowkeeper are seen, every effort is made to keep the offenders under observation.

Structural improvements have been made to a number of cowsheds during the year, chiefly relating to lighting, ventilation and drainage systems.

There are 99 producers of accredited milk and 4 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District.

Twenty samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination during the year. Four samples showed a rather high coliform content.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughterhouses and butcher's shops are visited regularly. An effort is made to inspect all animals slaughtered in the district. The meat generally is of a high standard, and in sound condition.

All places where food is produced, stored or exposed for sale have been visited during the year and are in the main quite satisfactory.

During the year the following carcasses of meat were inspected and found in good condition:-

Cattle...	489.
Cows.	69.
Calves...	9.
Sheep and Lambs..	2152.
Pigs.	554.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected.	489.	69.	9	2152.	554.
All diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcasses condemned.	1			2.	
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.		3.		80.	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned.		1.			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.		1.			

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in this area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of nuisances found	64.
Number of nuisances abated.	50.
(a) after informal notices.	50.
(b) after service of statutory notices.	8.
Disused shafts securely fixed.	6.

NUMBER OF HOUSES INSPECTED.

Houses inspected and found defective	142
Houses repaired.	86
Roofs repaired.	46.
Chimneys repaired.	14.
Gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed.	18.
Walls re-pointed.	31.
Internal Walls re-plastered.	36.
Ceilings re-plastered.	20.
Windows made to open.	4.
Stairs repaired.	11.
Handrails fixed to stairs.	9.
Fireplaces refixed and repaired.	12.
Doors repaired.	2.
Wash Boiler replaced.	1.
New drains laid.	27.
Drains connected to new sewer.	57.
Privies converted to W.C's.	11.
Drains cleared and repaired.	17.
Total number of houses erected.	90.
Number of houses connected to the Council's Mains.	180.

ADULTERATION.

This is administered by the County Council.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The examination of milk is carried out at Bangor University. There has been no occasion for other food examination.

NUTRITION.

So far, nothing has been undertaken by this Council.

SHELL FISH.

The Shell Fish layings in the area are few; there has been no pollution of the beds. The Markets to which they are sent are Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

The layings (from which cockles and mussels are derived) are situated at Mostyn.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Council provides Antidiphtheria Serum which is therefore used in every case. During the year 23 cases of Diphtheria and 27 Scarlet Fever were notified. These cases are spread over 12 months and there was no epidemic, 10 cases were admitted to hospital.

In the Winter Months 28 cases of Pneumonia were notified with 13 fatal cases. This compares favourably with any other area, where facilities for isolation might be considered more extensive, and I consider that the Council have every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year.

DISEASES.	INFECTIOUS					Total.	Cases sent to hospital	Deaths.	Rate.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.				
ALL PERIODS	1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	
DISSEMINATED.									
Scarlet Fever.			2.	3.	1.	4.	6.	1.	1.31.
Diphtheria.		1.		3.	7.	2.	3.	2.	1.12.
Puerperal Fever.						1.			0.40.
Puerperal Pyrexia.						4.			0.13.
Mysipelas.						2.	1.		0.18.
Pneumonia.	1.	2.	1.	2.	1.	3.	3.	13.	1.36.
TOTALS.	1.	2.	4.	5.	13.	11.	10.	15.	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.								
1.								
5.		1.		1.				
15.	4.	2.		2.				
25.	1.							
35.	4.	1.	1.		2.			
45.	3.				1.			
55.	1.	1.						
65.	1.							
Upwards.								
	14.	5.	1.	3.	3.			

Rate - 1.12.
Death Rate - 0.14.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation. All cases have been notified and there has been no cause for action to be taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified.	Treatment at Home.	In Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision. Impaired.	Total Blindness.
1	1	-	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 births 2.9.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

This is administered by the County Council.

(Signed) I. PHILLIPINE NELIS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Holywell Rural District Council.

The Manse,
M O L D.

July 8th, 1939.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES. 1.	Inspections. 2.	Number of	
		Written Notices. 3.	Occupiers Prosecuted. 4.
FACTORIES With Mechanical Power.	30.	-	-
FACTORIES Without Mechanical Power.	75.	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	12.	-	-
TOTAL.	117.	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. 1.	Number of defects			Number of Offences in respect of which Pros- ecutions were instituted. 5.
	Found 2.	Remedied. 3.	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4.	
Want of Cleanliness.	6.	6.	-	-
Overcrowding..				
Unreasonable Temperature.. ...				
Inadequate Ventilation				
Ineffective Drainage of floors				
Insufficient...				
Sanitary Unsuitable or				
Conveniences. Defective.. ...	2.	2.		
not separate				
for sexes.. ...				
Other Offences.... ...				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or Offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
TOTAL... ..	8.	8.		

